

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AF-06 EA-06 EUR-12

NEA-10 OIC-02 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /133 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5106

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMCONSUL MONTERREY

AMCONSUL GUADALAJARA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GENEVA 6168

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: NEW MEXICAN IMPORT TARIFF

REF: (A) MEXICO CITY 1759; (B) MEXICO CITY 6258; (C) GENEVA 2735
(NOTAL); (D) MTN GENEVA 6117

1. MEXICO HAS CIRCULATED GATT DOCUMENT ANNOUNCING MEXICAN CONGRESS HAS APPROVED NEW TARIFF BASICALLY AS DESCRIBED REFTEL (A). DOCUMENT ADDS THAT ALL SPECIFIC DUTIES REPLACED BY AD VALOREM DUTIES AND SAYS 85 PERCENT OF "ITEMS" (I.E., NOT TRADE) CARRY DUTY OF UNDER 35 PERCENT.

2. SAYS REVISION OF TARIFF CONTRIBUTES TO OBJECTIVES OF MTN AND TO PURPOSES UNDERLYING PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION AND NEGOTIATION BETWEEN CONTRACTING PARTIES AND GOVERNMENTS WISHING ACCEDE TO GATT.

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3. NO REFERENCE MADE TO RELATION BETWEEN NEW TARIFF AND

MEXICO'S COMPREHENSIVE AND DEEPLY INGRAINED IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM GIVING ABSOLUTE VETO AUTHORITY OVER WIDE RANGE OF IMPORTS. REFTEL (B) CONFIRMS SYSTEM IS STILL IN FULL BLOOM AND INDEED APPLICATION BEING INTENSIFIED. THESE NEW TARIFF CHANGES WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR BE OF PERIPHERAL IMPORTANCE IN DETERMINING EVENTUAL SUITABILITY OF MEXICO FOR GATT ACCESSION. (NOTE: THIS ASPECT IS PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN LIGHT OF MEXICO'S APPARENT UNWILLINGNESS, PER REFTEL (D), TO DISCUSS LICENSING SYSTEM IN CONTEXT OF MTN QR CONSULTATION.) TREATMENT OF LICENSING WHICH WOULD POTENTIALLY NULLIFY BENEFITS OF TARIFF RATES WAS OF COURSE MAJOR ELEMENT IN RECENT GATT WORKING PARTY ON PROVISIONAL ACCESSION OF COLOMBIA (REFTEL (C)).

4. COPIES OF L/4210 BEING POUCHED NORMAL WASHINGTON DISTRIBUTION AND EMBASSY MEXICO CITY.

5. SENTENCE ON POSSIBLE GATT ACCESSION READS AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE: "I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU THAT PURSUANT TO THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO TAKE PART IN THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH WAS COMMUNICATED TO YOU ON 14 SEPTEMBER 1973 IN TOKYO, JAPAN AND BEARING IN MIND THE POSSIBILITY OF A DECISION BY MY GOVERNMENT TO REQUEST ACCESSION TO GATT, DEPENDING ON THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SUBJECT TO SUCH AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE REACHED ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL PROTOCOLS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS BY COUNTRIES NOT MEMBERS OF GATT; AND FINALLY, CONSIDERING SUCH NEGOTIATIONS AS THE SIMULTANEOUS AND ADEQUATE FULFILMENT OF THE UNDERTAKINGS IN REGARD TO MEMBERSHIP LAID DOWN IN THE GENERAL AGREEMENT, THE MEXICAN CONGRESS, HAS APPROVED, BY PROPOSAL OF THE EXECUTIVE, A NEW GENERAL IMPORT TARIFF TO REPLACE THE ONE IN FORCE UP TO DECEMBER 1974." UNQUOTEDALE

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